

REMARKS

Upon entering the above amendments, claims 4-10, 13-18, 21, 25-31, and 34-36 will be pending with claims 34-36 being independent. Claims 1-3, 11-12, 19-20, 22-24, and 32-33 have been canceled. New independent claims 34-36 have been added. Dependent claims 4-8, 10, 13-18, 21, 25-29, and 31 have been amended to correct claim dependencies based on the new independent claims. No new matter is added with these amendments.

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Polizzi, U.S. Patent No. 6,643,661B2 (hereinafter "Polizzi"). Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested in light of this amendment.

Interview Summary

The undersigned appreciatively acknowledges the telephone interview agreed to by Examiner Augustine on July 24, 2007. During the interview, the disclosure of Polizzi was discussed in relation to alleged correspondences with elements recited in the claims. Examiner Augustine explained that in his opinion, the service broker 125 disclosed by Polizzi correspond to the navigation service instantly claimed and that the "jobs" disclosed by Polizzi correspond to navigation connectors instantly claimed. Examiner Augustine also noted that in his opinion, the jobs can be application source specific.

New Claims

New independent claims 34-36 have been added. All are fully supported by the specification, at least at paragraphs [0029] to [0033].

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Polizzi. This rejection is respectfully traversed. For a valid rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), a reference must describe each and every limitation of the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of Polizzi does not meet this burden for the pending claims. Independent claims 1, 12, 19, 22, and 33 have been canceled. The pending rejections are therefore addressed below in reference to new independent claims 34-36 to a method, a portal system, and an article of manufacture, respectively.

The pending rejections are traversed based on the currently pending claims. Polizzi fails to disclose a data layer comprising a plurality of application sources, each of which provides one navigation connector by implementing a defined connector interface that is defined by a navigation service operating in an integration layer. As noted above, the Office has alleged that the "jobs" of Polizzi anticipate the navigation connectors instantly claimed. However, this characterization is not consistent with the disclosure of Polizzi in relation to the limitations recited in independent claims 34-36.

The navigation connectors as instantly claimed have a direct one-to-one correspondence with the application sources in the data layer. Furthermore, the navigation connectors are implemented by the application sources, not by the navigation service, and each application source implements a single navigation connector. Contrastingly, in Polizzi, the "jobs" are not application source specific, and neither are they implemented by the application sources. Rather, the jobs are executed by service agents 130 under the control of the service broker 125. As such, Polizzi cannot reasonably be construed as anticipating the subject matter claimed either in independent claims 34-36 or in dependent claims 4-10, 13-18, 21, or 25-31 which also include the above-discussed limitations regarding the navigation connectors based on dependency from one of the new independent claims.

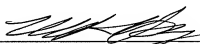
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-073-UTIL/2003P00062US.

Respectfully submitted,

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